

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13  
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11  
NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 AID-05 /072 W  
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R 082200Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8167  
AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3077

LIMA FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCNEIL

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SNAR, EC  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT POVEDA TALKS ABOUT NARCOTICS PROGRAM

1. IN A MEETING WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRANCIS MCNEIL  
IN SALINAS ON MAY 6, ADMIRAL ALFREDO POVEDA BURBANO, PRESIDENT  
OF THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT, SPOKE AT THE OUTSET OF THE  
CONVERSATION ABOUT ECUADOR'S NEW NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM.

2. POVEDA SAID THAT A REFORM OF PENAL CODE WAS NOW IN PROCESS  
WHICH WOULD TIGHTEN JUDICIAL PROCEDURES IN DRUG CASES AND BE  
MUCH MORE PUNITIVE THAN BEFORE. THE SUPREME COURT HAD JUST  
REVIEWED THE PROPOSALS AND SENT BACK ITS ASSESSMENT. POVEDA  
REMARKED THAT THE SECOND PRONG OF THE PROGRAM DEALT WITH BETTER  
POLICE ACTION AND HE DESCRIBED THIS AS THE MOST DIFFICULT.  
HE SAID THAT GOE WAS STILL LOOKING FOR A PROPER MIX OF INCEN-  
TIVES SO THAT THE POLICE WOULD PERFORM THEIR TASKS HONESTLY  
AND EFFICIENTLY. THE THIRD PRONG, HE SAID, WAS INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION AND HE POINTED TO THE CURRENT ATTORNEYS  
GENERAL CONFERENCE IN CARACAS AS PART OF THIS EFFORT.

3. CHARGE CORR NOTED THAT SINCE HIS LAST CONVERSATION  
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WITH POVEDA ON DRUGS, THE GOE HAD ARRESTED THREE OF THE  
EIGHTEEN KNOWN LARGE TRAFFICKERS. MR. MCNEIL OBSERVED  
THAT THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM WAS A TWO-FACED COIN AND HAD  
TO BE TACKLED BOTH ON THE SUPPLY SIDE AS WELL AS ON THE  
DEMAND SIDE IN THE US.

4. POVEDA REGRETTED THAT ECUADOR HAD BEEN SLOW TO TACKLE

THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. IF GOE HAD TAKEN ACTION A FEW YEARS AGO, PROBLEM WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO SOLVE NOW. HOWEVER, HE REITERATED THE SERIOUSNESS WHICH THE GOE WAS FACING THE ISSUE NOW. HE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS STILL NOT TOO LATE SINCE WHILE CORRUPTION WAS FAIRLY PREVALENT AT THE LOWER LEVELS, IT HAD NOT REACHED THE UPPOER STRATA OF GOVERNMENT. FINALLY, HE DECLARED HIMSELF SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE SO FAR.  
CORR

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NARCOTICS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** SNAR, PDIP, EC, (POVEDA BURBANO, ALFREDO), (MCNEIL, FRANCIS)  
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